

Environmental science



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Documentary Home Duration: 95 minutes Director: Yann Arthus-Bertrand

Year: 2009 Website: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jqxENMKaeCU&feature=related>

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This documentary depicts the beginning of life on earth, the environmental problems it currently faces, and the hope that it holds for the future. The entire documentary was shot in birds-eye view which allows the audience to get an aerial perspective of the different places on earth. Through a narration by actress Glenn Close, environmental issues of overpopulation, deforestation, and oil-dependency among others are explored. The last part of the documentary explains the eco-friendly programs currently adopted in many countries.

The problems and solutions for environmental issues are depicted through aerial shots of natural and urban landscapes across several countries. The documentary argues that the more the earth develops the more natural resources it consumes. Building and population boom in urban China, industrial production in the U. S., the lack of potable water in India, and deforestation in Borneo are some of the issues covered. In South Korea, New York, and Costa Rica, forest management programs are being implemented. In addition, Mumbai, New Zealand, and Austria among other countries have agreed to develop renewable energy sources like windmill and solar panels. This documentary makes us aware of the environments problems and the different solutions offered by environment science. We are shown that water, soil, wind, and sun work together to create life. Environmental scientists are encouraged to improve existing technologies in renewable energy sources and develop new ways of harnessing energy from the earth. As whats stated in the documentary - " Whats important is what remains [on earth]."

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Documentary 2: Six Degrees Could Change the World

Duration: 96 minutes

Director: Ron Bowman

Year: 2008

Website: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eACKg4akhRk>

This documentary depicts different scenarios that could result from increases in world temperature. The documentary was filled with weather footages and special effects that illustrate the harmful effects of global warming. Alec Baldwin guides the audience through his narration of the changes in temperature and the accompanying effect in oceans, disasters, and everyday climate. Environmental events believed to have resulted from global warming are also presented.

The documentary used real-world examples of environmental changes to portray how changes in earth's temperature affect the environment. A place in England now grows wine-quality grapes which were not possible a few years back. The metal-protected houses in Paris led to several thousands dead when a heat wave occurred. All these real-world examples show the harmful effects of increasing earth temperature. The documentary suggested, however, that these events are partly caused by human neglect. Lets not wait until the damages to earths environment become irreversible. This documentary serves as a wake-up call and a warning to us. While the documentaries argument is anchored on a hypothetical situation, the recent global warming events are difficult to ignore. Environmental scientists are encouraged to develop ways to decrease or prevent increases in global temperatures. They can develop technologies that reduce the green house effect, for instance, or lower the emission of carbon dioxide levels.

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